GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:697
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Rain Water Harvesting
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the average annual rainfall in the country, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilized during the last five years, State/UT-wise and year-wise;
(c) whether the Government proposes to implement any schemes for rain water harvesting, if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated under any such scheme so far along with its utilization; and
(d) the steps being taken by the Government to popularize the positive aspects of rain water harvesting?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)
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(a) The India Meteorological Department prepares average annual rainfall data in the Country. As per the data maintained by India Meteorological Department (IMD), the all India average annual rainfall is 1187.6 mm.
(b) Data on quantum of rainwater being harvested and utilized in the States/UT-wise is not maintained Centrally.
(c) During XI Plan, Demonstrative Artificial Recharge Projects were taken up under Central Sector Scheme "Ground Water Management & Regulation". Under the scheme, 133 demonstrative recharge projects costing Rs. 99.87 crore were approved for construction of recharge structures in various States/UTs with anticipated annual recharge to ground water at about 55.20 MCM. The scheme on Artificial Recharge project has been discontinued during the XII Plan period. Till date, Rs. 92.70 Crore has been released. Rain water harvesting structures are also being constructed under MGNREGA and watershed component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

(d) Various steps being taken by the Government to popularize the positive aspects of rain water harvesting are as under :
â€¢ Under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Scheme of Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, awareness on ground water conservation, protection and augmentation is generated through print and electronic media. Further, Mass Awareness Programmes, Water Management Training Programmes, Painting Competitions on Water Conservation, Workshops, 'Hamara Jal Hamara Jeevan' Programmes, 'Bhu-jal Manthan', 'Jal Yatras', Exhibitions etc. are also organised to spread awareness towards water conservation, management and reducing wastage of water.
â€¢ Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18)' in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams'. An integrated water security plan, water conservation, water management and allied activities are envisaged for each of the selected 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilisation of water.
â€¢ Considering water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water as a special focus area under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) works wherein about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures.
â€¢ "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" has been prepared, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country.
â€¢ Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisory to States/ Union Territories and Ministry of Urban Development to take necessary measures for adopting rain water harvesting/ artificial recharge in all the Government buildings. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including suitable provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.